
The NBSS is funded by the Department of Education and Science under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013

The NBSS would like to thank the teachers in partner schools, including those who took part over the last number of years in the *Teacher as Researcher - Literacy and Learning Research Projects*, for sharing their experiences and the insights they gained from implementing the programmes and resources outlined in this publication.
The National Behaviour Support Service offers three levels of support to second level schools:

- **Level 1**: Whole School Positive Behaviour Support
- **Level 2**: Targeted Intervention Behaviour Support
- **Level 3**: Intensive, Individualised Behaviour Support

This approach, based on international best practice (Lewis & Sugai, 1999; Sugai, 2008; Walker et al, 1996; Rosenberg & Prunty, 2008), is applied to both behavioural and academic interventions. An extensive body of international research provides evidence that young people’s academic difficulties can cause, or at least exacerbate, behavioural difficulties in school (Miles & Stipek, 2006; Nelson, Martela & Marchand-Martella, 2002; Verdugo & Schneider, 1999). Research carried out by the NBSS (Henefer, 2008; 2009) found that during a period of two years, 76.0% (N=407) of students who had been referred for Level 3 (Intensive, Individualised Behaviour Support) were reading three or more years below their chronological ages. Thus it is clear that academic support and behaviour support cannot be viewed in isolation.

Through its model of support the NBSS works with schools in developing a continuum of support to address students’ literacy, learning and behavioural needs comprehensively. For example at Level 1 this means the use of inclusive teaching and learning strategies that benefit a broad range of learner characteristics and abilities. At Level 2, for students who continue to struggle academically, targeted instruction and interventions at differentiated levels of intensity to address specific difficulties are needed. While at Level 3 a small number of students will require sustained and intensive combinations of inclusive teaching and learning classroom strategies, as well as targeted interventions that are individualised, explicit and relevant.

Common themes emerge from the research literature with respect to effective practices for addressing the literacy needs of adolescent learners. Amongst these is the need for all subject teachers to integrate the explicit and direct teaching of *vocabulary and comprehension skills* necessary for learning in
their subject areas. The research also confirms that many adolescents need to improve **fluency skills**, while a small number of students need systemic, intensive and explicit teaching related to **phonics and phonemic awareness**.

**Sharing of Ideas and Expertise**

The work of teachers in NBSS partner schools has involved addressing the learning behaviour needs of students and implementing targeted intervention programmes. Over the last number of years teachers have used particular programmes and resources to support students’ literacy and learning needs as part of targeted interventions, at class, group or individual level. This has often involved developing students’ vocabulary and comprehension skills, improving students’ writing skills or concentrating on their reading fluency. In some cases teachers have worked with individual students who needed systemic and intensive teaching related to phonics and phonemic awareness. Many of the teachers involved in implementing these literacy and learning interventions, whether at individual, group, class or year group level, were involved in the **NBSS Teacher as Researcher Projects**.

This booklet briefly describes the programmes and resources that have been used by teachers in schools supported by NBSS and that were considered appropriate for use with students in need of an intensive and systemic reading and literacy intervention (Level 3 support), or helpful in developing class or year group reading and comprehension skills (Level 1 & Level 2 supports).

* Please note that this resource is not an "approved" list of programmes, nor does this list constitute an endorsement of these programmes over others that might be considered.
**Stile Literacy Programme**

**Description**

The *Stile Literacy Programme* is suitable for students with reading ages of 7-14. There are 3 sets of books - *Phonics & Spelling* works at the word level, *Grammar & Punctuation* at the sentence level and *Comprehension* at the text level.

The tiles of the Stile Tray, along with the books, enable students to practise skills and self-check their knowledge. Students answer the questions by placing each of the 12 numbered tiles on the appropriate square on the base of the tray. When all the tiles have been placed, they close the tray, turn it over and re-open it to reveal a geometric pattern. If the answers are all correct, the pattern will match the one printed at the top of the exercise.

The *Stile Programme* is also available in subject packs, year packs, multi-packs and special needs packs.

For more information check out: [http://www.ldalearning.com](http://www.ldalearning.com)

**Other Info**

Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: [www.otb.ie](http://www.otb.ie)

Price: Approximately €30 per book and the Stile Tray around €10.
Penguin Active Reading

Description

Penguin Active Reading are graded readers, which provide reading and language learning at five levels through full-colour, illustrated readers. Each book provides a range of integrated activities designed to develop reading skills and consolidate vocabulary, as well as project work ideas. Each book is supported by an interactive CD-ROM which contains additional activities and the complete audio recording.

Every title has its own activity worksheet - extra background information, photocopiable activities, teacher's notes and answer keys. Progress tests for every title are available. The tests, available on the Penguin website, help teachers to decide whether students are ready to move to the next level of Penguin Readers. There are six levels of test, corresponding to Levels 1–6 of the Readers and two versions of test at each level - the B test is provided as follow-up for retesting in the event of the majority of a class not obtaining the requisite score of 18/30 at the first attempt.

The Penguin Active Reading website is very comprehensive. You are able to see a demo of any title you might be interested in purchasing, demos of the activities contained on the CD-ROMs as well as placement reading tests.

For more information check out: http://www.penguinreaders.com/par/teachers/index.html

Other Info

Penguin Active Reading titles can be ordered online or Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: www.otb.ie. They can also be purchased from Amazon where cheaper second-hand copies are available. Price: Approximately €10 per title.
SRA Corrective Reading

Description

*SRA Corrective Reading* programme is designed to address deficiencies in decoding and comprehension and is suitable for readers of all ages and skills levels. It is made up of two major strands – decoding and comprehension. The **Decoding** strand is written for students who have difficulty reading accurately and fluently. The Decoding programmes provide a blend of teacher-directed instruction and high-frequency practice to accelerate decoding. This programme progresses from teaching letter sounds and blending to reading passages typical of textbook material. The **Comprehension** strand is designed for students who read without understanding and aims to develop vocabulary, information and comprehension strategies needed for academic success. This programme gives students the opportunity to develop higher order thinking and reasoning tactics used by successful readers – applying prior knowledge, making inferences, analysing evidence.

A Tutor CD-ROM presents teachers with detailed information and examples needed to implement Decoding and Comprehension in the classroom.

For more information see: [http://www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/sra/correctivereading.htm](http://www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/sra/correctivereading.htm)

Other Info

*SRA Corrective Reading* can be ordered online or contact: Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: www.otb.ie

Price: There are separate students workbooks and teacher guides within each strand. Teacher resources cost approx. €120–€150 per book and one student workbook costs approximately €20.
The SRA Specific Skill Series teaches and reinforces key reading comprehension skills. The programme builds reading proficiency by targeting specific skills using short reading passages and formatted exercise questions. Combined with the assessment tools, the programme can reinforce those areas where a student requires additional practice. The series is suitable for students aged 5-14 yrs.

The essential skills developed in the programmes include: Word Study, Comparing & Contrasting, Identifying Cause & Effect, Finding Details, Identifying Fact & Opinion, Getting the Main Idea, Drawing Conclusions, Sequencing and Making Inferences.

The Specific Skill Series can work well for individual, small group and whole-class teaching. The series includes Student Books, Teacher’s Manuals and placement and assessment tools in both print and CD-ROM formats. The pretests allow you to determine each student’s comprehension skill level and assign the appropriate skills books.

For more information check out:
http://www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/sra/specific-skills-for-reading.htm

Other Info

The Specific Skill Series can be ordered online from McGraw Hill and ordered from: Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: www.otb.ie Price: Approximately €300 per set (primary middle or upper set) and approximately €18 for the teacher manual.
SRA Reading Laboratory

Description

*SRA Reading Laboratory* is a structured system for teaching and developing essential reading skills. They are available for readers of all ages and skills levels. The SRA website provides a chart to help you select the *Reading Lab* most appropriate for the needs of your students.

A method that has been proven effective is to use the programme over a concentrated period of time instead of widely spaced across the entire school year. For example, using the laboratory for eight sessions (twenty to forty minutes long) spaced closely together when training the students how to use the materials phase. Having lessons close together can help students carry over learning from one day to the next. No specialist training is needed to run the programme and it can form part of any reading or English class.

For more information check out: http://srareadinglabs.com/pages/home.php

Other Info

*SRA Reading Laboratory* can be ordered online and is also available from Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: www.otb.ie

Price: Approximately €760 for SRA Kit with 30 student books.
This is an ICT-based intervention that uses a “talking” computer. It is multi-sensory and aims to improve reading, spelling and listening skills. It was originally designed for dyslexic students but is now used more widely and is suitable for students aged 6-16 years old. It is designed for 20-30 minute 1:1 sessions per day, for 4 weeks. There is a detailed electronic manual that explains how reading and writing can be improved using computer text-to-speech software plus an explanation of the theory behind the approach.

The package also includes colour-coded flash cards, photocopiable record sheets, along with blank flash cards to print off with your own sentences. The student is presented with one of the cards, which contains four sentences. Each card contains a particular phonic pattern or number of patterns. The student reads the card until they have memorised it. The card is then placed face down and the student has to say the sentence to the adult and then type it into the computer. The computer then says each word as it was entered, giving audio feedback of misspelled words. It also reads the complete sentence once the full stop has been typed. Mistakes in the sentence are then rectified by the student until the sentence is read correctly. Each session follows a set procedure.

The programme needs a computer that has a sound card and a talking word processor or text-to-speech programme. The following text-to-speech programmes are suggested by the company - Penfriend (approx €66); Write:Outloud Solo (approx €85); Clicker (approx €145); Texthelp Read & Write (approx €190) and Textease (approx €220).

For more information see: www.dyslexic.com/acceleread

Other Info

AcceleRead AcceleWrite can be ordered on line from Dyslexia.com for approximately €60 or in Ireland from EdTech (ph: 1850 923459) and Diskovery (01 806 3910) for approximately €99. The text-to-speech programs can also be ordered from dyslexia.com and Edtech.
A.R.R.O.W. (Auditory, Read, Respond, Oral, Write) is an ICT-based programme. It is a multi-sensory learning system for the improvement of reading, spelling, speech and listening skills. The programme is based on learning through self voice techniques, whilst undertaking various programmes covering reading, spelling, dictation, speech and listening skills.

The recording of the student’s self-voice forms the basis of the A.R.R.O.W. work. The teacher establishes a starting point with the student and then makes a recording of the student’s voice. The work includes ‘precision spellings’ – word families, frequently used words and words that sound similar and have a similar letter pattern and dictation of passages of information.

A.R.R.O.W. has been used in a range of settings including primary and secondary schools, colleges as well as adult education centres and with students experiencing literacy problems, dyslexia, hearing impairment, speech/language disorders and neurological disorders.

The purchase of the programme also includes training in its use.

For more information see: http://www.self-voice.com/

Other Info

The cost of the A.R.R.O.W. programme includes teacher training, CD-ROM and programme licence. The numbers of teachers involved will impact on the overall price. Through the website http://www.self-voice.com/ you can make an enquiry as to the exact costings for your particular scenario.
**Toe by Toe**

**Description**

*Toe by Toe* is a highly structured reading manual that teaches basic literacy skills to learners of all ages, using a phonics-based method. The programme is a series of step-by-step activities in one book with instructions for the teacher or coach provided for each activity. Parents and reading mentors can operate this scheme as it is designed to be used by non-specialists also.

It is recommended that the programme is used daily for 20 minutes and implemented exactly as described in the instructions. It takes approximately 5/6 months to complete the entire programme, however it has been implemented over shorter periods of time.

For more information and research related to the programme link to:

- [www.toe-by-toe.co.uk](http://www.toe-by-toe.co.uk)
- [http://www.kedalearning.co.uk/toebytoe/toebytoe.htm#Question%202](http://www.kedalearning.co.uk/toebytoe/toebytoe.htm#Question%202)
- [http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/pubs/mackay.htm](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/pubs/mackay.htm)

**Other Info**

*Toe by Toe* can be ordered online at [www.toe-by-toe.co.uk](http://www.toe-by-toe.co.uk) as well as on Amazon. It costs approximately €35.
**Word Shark & Number Shark**

*Description*

**Wordshark** is a computer programme to help teach reading and spelling and is suitable for 5-15 yr olds. It uses 55 specially designed games to teach and to reinforce reading and spelling using 9,000 pre-recorded words grouped in specially selected word lists. You can also add your own words. Different games include blending sounds into words for reading and also segmenting into sounds and syllables for spelling. All common letter patterns and auditory patterns are covered, plus spelling rules, homophones, alphabet and dictionary skills as well as words and relevant sentences related to curriculum subjects at secondary. The tailored games and structured word lists make **Wordshark** especially useful for students with dyslexia as well as for general use. The programme has an A4 size manual with advice on use of the programme. There are also on-screen help boxes for every game as well as pop-up teaching notes.

**Numbershark** is a computer programme that helps improve the use of numbers. The programme teaches and reinforces numeracy using 45 games. There are over 500 topics to choose from. **Numbershark** can be used by students aged between 6 and 14. To help those with dyslexia and dyscalculia many of the games give a visual idea of what is happening when you add, subtract, multiply or divide. Fractions and decimals are also shown visually. The programme has an A4 size manual with advice on use of the programme. There are also on-screen help boxes for every game and pop-up teaching notes.

**Other Info**

**Word and Number Shark** can be ordered online at [http://www.wordshark.co.uk/](http://www.wordshark.co.uk/) or from: Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: www.otb.ie and EdTech: Phone 1850 923459 or 353 98 64886, E-mail: info@EdTech.ie. **Word and Number Shark** costs approximately €86 for a single licence.
Trugs is a structured phonics reading resource to support students who are learning to read. The game has been designed for the teaching of discrete, daily sessions progressing from simple to more complex phonic knowledge and skills.

There are four different styles of card games at each of the structured and progressive phonic reading stages. There is also an explanation about the teaching of the specific phonic sounds within the Instruction Booklet as well as a clue card containing a shortened explanation for the student to have alongside them to help recall. Assessment booklets for monitoring students’ progress are also supplied.

Each of the 3 boxes contains:
- 20 Card Games that cover five reading stages
- 1 Instruction Booklet
- 1 Monitoring Booklet (to assess student progress)
- 1 Reading Booklet

For more information check out: http://www.readsuccessfully.com/

Other Info

Trugs can be ordered online and is also available from: Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: www.otb.ie
Price: Approximately €55 per box.
Flip for Comprehension

Description

Flip for Comprehension and Flip for Non-Fiction Comprehension contain a collection of ready-to-use comprehension activities that can be done before, during, or after class reading. All activities are tailored to fit textbook, non-fiction or narrative texts. These resources facilitate the development of comprehension strategies. Strategies such as making predictions, establishing purpose, finding the main idea and using text features structures to aid comprehension can be taught using these resources.

The resource was winner of the US Learning Magazine 2008 Teachers’ Choice award.

Also available in the series:
• Flip for Word Work includes fifty phonics, spelling and vocabulary lessons to improve students word knowledge and help them build stronger vocabularies.

Other Info

All Flip for... books can be ordered online from Amazon for approximately €20 each.
The Story Maker’s Chest

Description

The Story Maker’s Chest is a selection of multi-sensory resources to stimulate creative writing, extend vocabulary and improve grammar.

There is a 124 page guide for teachers that describes how to use the materials to develop student’s writing skills. Each box contains:

- Four Story Starter Games to help students cover essential sentence and text level.
- A Story Maker’s Curiosity Bag containing a mixture of objects to get students started (e.g. a feather, leaf, shell, star, jewel, mask, egg, coin, insect, key, etc.) and over 20 word cards. There are also ideas for further items you can include in the bag when teaching creative writing.
- Two colourful Story Making Banner Posters with the ingredients for writing stories presented as a recipe.
- 80 Story Maker’s Playing Cards that feature thought-provoking images of characters and settings, and brief outlines of basic plots and ‘trigger events’.
- 12 Story Playing Card Holders so you can have any combination of character, setting, ‘trigger event’ and plot idea cards that can be displayed on the desk or at the front of the classroom.
- Three Story Wheels which are spinners that help students select different feelings, wishes and fears that will enable them to flesh out their characters and give their writing depth.

This resource was winner of the UK Educational Resource Award in 2005.

For more information check out: http://philipandtacey.co.uk

Other Info

The Story Maker’s Chest can be ordered online or ordered from Outside the Box, Kildare. Phone 045 409322; Fax: 045 409959. Email: info@otb.ie Web: www.otb.ie
Price: Approximately €120 per chest.
References


* Check out this UK report for the names of other literacy intervention schemes and commercially available programmes. Included in the report is an overview of the effectiveness of each intervention outlined.
The Flesch-Kincaid (US) Grade Level is 11.2
(6th grade = 11-12yrs; 7th grade = 12–13yrs; 8th grade = 12-14yrs; 9th grade = 14-15yrs; 10th grade = 15-16yrs; 11th grade = 17-18 yrs)
The Flesch Reading Ease readability score formula rates text on a 100-point scale based on the average number of syllables per word and words per sentence. The higher the Flesch Reading Ease score, the easier it is to understand the document.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level

* Available in MS Word

National Behaviour Support Service

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